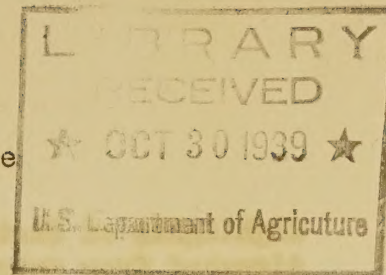


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Washington, D. C.



EXTRACTS FROM RECENT CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS ON SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

South Dakota. Extension Director to Dr. Warburton:

Last year 40 county nutrition committees held meetings and 43 county teachers' institutes received hot school lunch information. How to use surplus commodities in meal planning was demonstrated throughout the year by Extension Nutritionist and Home Extension Agents State-wide. Two thousand and ninety were the number of schools in which the hot school lunch was served, as reported to the Extension Service; 1,585 schools reported using surplus commodities; 24,481 children reported receiving one hot dish at noon during the three coldest months.

We have worked out the following plan:

1. The plan for 1939-40 is to contact all rural teachers at the fall Teachers' Institute on the use of surplus commodities in the Hot School Lunch.

2. To hold open meetings in all counties with and without Home Extension Agents on the use of surplus commodities for:

WPA Housekeeping Aides  
WPA Hot School Lunch Women  
WPA Deans of Dormitories  
WPA Sewing Room Women  
Wives of FSA Borrowers  
Home Extension Club Members  
4-H Leaders

3. To make the State and County Nutrition Committees more inclusive as to membership. At the present time, the following make up the State committee: State Board of Health (2 members); Department of Education (1 member); Farm Security Administration (1 member); and Extension Service (2 members).

The county nutrition committees consist of: County or Home Extension Agent; County Nurse; Home Management Supervisor; all Homemaking teachers; and County Superintendent of schools. We hope to include a member of the WPA--State and county; and the PTA--State and county.



Highlights of State-wide Rural School Lunch Program in Maine, 1938,  
digested from nutrition specialist's report.

- Purpose:
1. To improve the health of Maine school children by the preparation and packing of well balanced adequate school lunches.
  2. To interest the parents and school officials in the serving of well balanced adequate hot lunches in Maine schools.

Methods:

The work was based on findings on the health and nutrition of Maine school children from three sources: A Furnell study made by the Experiment Station, a school lunch survey taken by the State Department of Health, and a check of the food habit scores of certain 4-H Club members.

Cooperating parties:

Extension Service, State Boards of Health and of Education.

Contacts were made through:

1. All-day community meetings to which mothers of school children were invited. Packed lunches were demonstrated, typical hot school lunch served, and round table discussion on situation was followed by appointment of school lunch committee.
2. Community canning bees, featuring especially tomatoes. Mothers were invited.
3. Publicity: News articles; 14 radio talks, mostly delivered by agents and rural homemakers; 4 school lunch letters to mothers, October to January.
4. Contacts with schools: Talks to P.T.A.'s, superintendent's conference, normal schools by Board of Health nutritionist. Round table discussions at county teachers' conventions by home economics teachers and home demonstration agent. Selection of schools in each county for a cooperative program in 1938-39.
5. Employment of special agent for 6 weeks; follow-up by State extension workers.



6. The Goal: The goal of having 50 percent of problem families plan for school lunch supplies in the canning budget and prepare a balanced school lunch including a hot school lunch is still being worked on during the first half of the school year.
7. Some results to date: Requests received for directions and recipes, new schools organized lunch systems, children have had more tomato juice.

Vermont. Nutrition Specialist to Dr. Warburton:

In June I called together a group of people to discuss the possibility of a State-wide school lunch program in Vermont for next year. Fourteen people including the Deputy Commissioner of Education, State Supervisor of Agriculture, State Supervisor of Home Economics, State Supervisor of Health and Physical Education, Director of Public Health Nursing, Nursing Supervisor, WPA Supervisor of Home Economists, President of the State PTA, home demonstration agent, county club agent, and the Extension Nutritionist attended.

The Deputy Commissioner is to meet with the home demonstration agents at their fall conference to discuss how they can cooperate with the school superintendents. It is planned to form county committees this fall with the Extension Nutritionist attending meetings with them. The use of surplus commodities in the school lunch was discussed and plans made for the nutritionist to prepare material on the use of these commodities in the school lunch. The committee hopes to have the school lunches carried on throughout the year rather than just through the cold months. All committee members felt that the home demonstration agent could be a great help in contacting superintendents and assisting teachers in isolated schools.

I have been asked to participate in the discussion on the school lunch at the State PTA meeting this fall.

Tennessee. Mr. Albin to Assistant State Director:

You might be interested to know that State welfare agencies throughout the country are authorized to donate surplus commodities to educational institutions which carry on training in Home Economics for use in connection with cooking demonstrations and free school lunch developments.

New York. State Home Demonstration Leader to State Director:

Since experience shows that school teachers consider themselves too heavily laden to undertake to solve the school lunch problem, this being true even of the home economics teachers, I believe that in any plan



that is made consideration might well be given to enlisting the interest and active help of older women in the community whose children have grown up and who might be glad to express their good citizenship in helping so worthy a cause. Many such women have had years of training in foods and nutrition as local leaders of the Home Bureaus.

North Carolina. Assistant Extension Director to Dr. Warburton:

We would suggest that special consideration be given to the Negro schools in North Carolina. In most cases with the white schools we have rather active parent-teacher associations which know how to seek and obtain the necessary aid in their programs but probably in our Negro schools they are not so well organized and will need a great deal more help. It is also probable that many more of the Negro children find themselves unable to provide the proper food requirements than is true of the white children.